

IV.—*Sixth List of Birds from the Hill Ranges of the North-East Frontier of India.*—By LIEUT.-COLONEL H. H. GODWIN-AUSTEN, F. Z. S. &c., &c., late Deputy Superintendent Topographical Survey of India.

(Received 16th March; read 3rd April.)

[With Plates X and XI.]

This list is the result of two seasons' Survey exploration in the Eastern Nágá Hills (Mr. A. W. Chennell) and of the low hills near Sadiya and the neighbourhood of the Bráhmakhúnd (Mr. M. T. Ogle). I have again to acknowledge the kind services of the above gentlemen, to whom I owe so much, and who have added considerably to the value of the collection by taking careful measurements in the flesh and recording the colour of the soft parts. The collection is a large one and contains, as will be seen, besides a large number of species already recorded, many interesting birds. Together with the birds included in my paper on the Daffa Hills and Darrang Terai, which I have now introduced and marked with an asterisk, it brings up the total number of species collected during the progress of No. 6 Topographical Survey to 585.

Having now left the service, I much fear that this will be my last contribution in these pages to the avi-fauna of the Eastern Districts. The assistants who have been associated with me hitherto on this pleasant work are being gradually reduced in number; and have either been transferred to other parties, or have proceeded on well merited leave of absence to a distance, so that it is difficult to arrange for collecting with success, and a certain amount of aid is requisite, which only individuals in the country can obtain. When this paper was almost completed, the arrival of Mr. Chennell in England, with another collection of some 800 skins from the North Khási Hills, has enabled me to add a few more species to the list, and there are still some I have not yet identified.

70. URRUA COROMANDA, Latham.

North Khási Hills, (collected by Mr. Chennell).

*71. HUHUA NIPALENSIS, Hodgson.

73. KETUPA FLAVIPES, Hodgson, var. *magnifica*, Swinhoe.

North Khási Hills. The specimen in Mr. Chennell's collection has the tarsus covered with a white down, buffy above, extending to within 1·3 inch of the base of the toes, as recorded by Mr. Swinhoe in his description of *K. magnifica* from Ningpo, (Ibis, 1873, p. 127).

On Mr. Chennell's label I find the following notes :

L. 21 inches, W. 16·5, T. 6·0, t. 3·0, Bf. 1·8. Bill greenish horny, irides golden yellow. Legs and feet dusky grey. The mid toe is 1·75, its claw 1·1, hind toe 1·0, claw 1·25.

These dimensions and the coloration of the feet and legs are much nearer to those of Mr. Swinhoe's bird than to those given by either Sharpe or Jerdon for *flavipes*. In neither of the latter is any mention made of the down covered tarsus, a character so striking that it could hardly have escaped their notice, and one which, besides the vermiculated breast and lower parts, distinguishes the species from *Ceylonensis*.

Swinhoe concludes with the remark that the fine down of the tarsus appears to wear off, but the specimen now recorded is an adult, and though this down may disappear to a certain extent, I do not think the tarsus and the joint above would ever become bare as in *Ceylonensis* and *flavipes*.

*94. CHELIDON NIPAENSIS, Hodgson.

106. BATRACHOSTOMUS JAVENSIS, Horsfield, ♀ ?

This specimen belongs to the Indian Museum, Calcutta, where I found it among some skins that had been sent down by the late lamented Captain John Butler from the Nágá Hills, and I was by the kind permission of the Trustees allowed to bring it to England. It is a most interesting specimen in the rufous phase of plumage, but unfortunately the sex is not marked. It agrees with a specimen of *B. Javensis* ♀ in the collection of Lord Tweeddale, and the description of the species as given in P. Z. S. 1877, p. 435, and the dimensions do not differ materially. I give a description of the Nágá Hill bird, interesting as being found so far to the northward.

Entire plumage rich chestnut brown, a few white feathers at the base of the upper mandible tipped rufous and barred with black. White on chin and throat, some of the feathers on the latter crossed by a V-shaped dark line, but they only extend to the upper breast, this being covered by feathers having large, rounded white centres, bounded on the terminal margin by a narrow dark line and fringed with chestnut; towards the abdomen and flanks the white marks become narrow and lengthened. The wing is unspotted, but conspicuous white feathers margined with black are mingled with the scapulars, and there is a well-marked nuchal collar, each feather crossed by a narrow black line edged terminally by another. There is a slight mottling of dull black on the primaries and secondaries and lower back. The tail is similarly mottled and crossed by 7 pale clear rufous bands, the outer penultimate tail feather has 5 distinct white bars on the outer web, the very short outermost feather has a terminal whitish spot.

W. 5·25 inches, T. 5·5, t. 0·6, Bf. 0·6. Breadth at gape, 1·05, mid-toe and claw 0·75. The long frontal plumes are black, rufous at the base.

This bird is, I think, nearest to *B. Javensis*, *B. affinis* apparently not having any white in front of the eye.

On my submitting this paper and the specimen to Lord Tweeddale he thus wrote to me,—“This Nágá Hill example of the genus, *Batrachostomus* “without doubt belongs to the *B. Javensis* (Horsf. ex Java). I have critically compared the two and cannot detect any difference. It may turn out to be Mr. Hume’s *B. castaneus*, in which case *B. Hodgsoni* will become a synonym of *B. Javensis*. It is a large form of *B. affinis*, but the “white on the throat seems to extend higher up, as it does in the Javan “species and in *B. cornutus* of Sumatra and Borneo.” Lord Tweeddale does not concur with me regarding the white mark in front of the eye, and says, “it is just as strongly marked in my examples of *B. affinis*.”

130. HALCYON PILEATA, Bodd.

H. atricapillus, Gmel.—Jerdon, Birds of India, Vol. I, p. 226.

♂ L. about 10·3, W. 4·9, T. 4·0, t. 0·58, Bf. 2·3, Bill from nostril 2·15.

The dimensions of the length and wing are much smaller than those given by Dr. Jerdon.

133. CERYX TRIDACTYLA, Pallas.

Dr. Jerdon informed me that he saw this species in a small stream close under the village of Cherra Púnji, but as I never got it myself, I did not record it. Mr. A. W. Chennell has two specimens he shot on the Umthunna River, N. Khási Hills.

*135a. ALCEDO GRANDIS, Blyth.

Also got on the Buri Dihing.

*137. CERYLE GUTTATA, Vigors.

Tenga Páni and Buri Dihing.

147. PALAEORNIS EUPATRIUS, Lin.

L. 21, W. 8·1, T. 13·5, t. 0·8, Bf. 1·5, Bg. 1·2.

Bill deep red. Legs and feet orange yellow.

N. Khási Hills, December, (Chennell).

*152a. PALAEORNIS MELANORHYNCHUS, Wagler.

*171. GECINUS STRIOLATUS, Blyth.

210. SURNICULUS DICRUROIDES, Hodgson.

Mr. Chennell has two specimens from the N. Khási Hills of this curiously plumaged bird, so like the king-crow.

Length 10·0, W. 5·5, T. 5·75, t. 0·7, Bf. 0·8.

*245. *CERTHIA DISCOLOR*, Blyth.

*303. *CYORNIS UNICOLOR*, Blyth.

313. *NITIDULA HODGSONI*, Moore.

A single male specimen was collected for me by Mr. A. Chennell in the Nágá Hills; this is of a richer chestnut below than a specimen from Darjiling. A female was obtained by Mr. Ogle at Sadiya. I give a description of the latter, that in Jerdon being taken from the male.

♀. Above, olivaceous brown, wings and tail dark umber-brown, beneath, all pale rufous buff. Under tail coverts white.

W. 1·75, t. 0·65. The wing is rather shorter than in the male which has it 1·90.

320. *SIPHIA LEUCOMELANURA*, Hodgson.

I now possess two males and three females from Sadiya, two males from the Munipur Hills, and one male from Sibságar, Assam. Dr. Jerdon only describes the male, the female apparently was unknown to him. I therefore give one of a specimen sent me from Darjiling by Mr. L. Mandelli.

♀. Above, brown with an olive cast, darkest on the head, ochraceous on the rump. Wing and tail ruddy brown, ferruginous at the base of the tail feathers and on the wing coverts. Beneath, dingy sordid white, purer on the centre of the abdomen, ochraceous on the flanks. Hind claw well curved. W. 2·3, T. 2·05, t. 0·72, Bf. 0·36.

♂. Sadiya, W. 2·4, T. 2·15, t. 0·85, Bf. 0·30 to 0·35.

Legs, sepia-brown; irides deep brown.

377. *CHLEUASICUS RUFICEPS*, Blyth, var. *atrosuperciliaris*, Godwin-Austen. P. A. S. B., June 1877, p. 147.

♂. Rusty chestnut on the head, same colour, but paler, on the nape and ear coverts: back and wings pale olive-brown, quills tinged rufous, tail brown. A narrow black streak over the eye, beneath dull white with an earthy tinge.

Legs dark plumbeous.

L. about 6, W. 2·85, T. 3·3, t. 0·90, Bf. 0·43.

Maubum Tila, near Sadiya.

Larger than typical *C. ruficeps* and not so white below.

*378b. *SUTHORA DAFLAENSIS*, Godwin-Austen.

*382. *GRAMMATOPTILA STRIATA*, Vigors.

390c. *TURDINUS NAGAENSIS*, Godwin-Austen, [A. M. N. H., Dec. 1877.]

"Above, rich umber-brown throughout with no streaking on the feathers of the head. Beneath, the same tint, much paler, with slight rusty shading into and adjacent to the dull whitish centre of the breast, chin also whitish.

"Irides dark brown, legs and feet light sienna-grey.

"Length about 5·70, wing 2·2, tail 2·2, t. 0·90, Bf. 0·50, hind toe, 0·35, claw 0·3. This species is very distinct from *T. Garoensis* in its deeper umber coloration and smaller size. Particularly is this the case in the legs, feet and hind claw.

"It was obtained by Mr. A. W. Chennell, of the Survey, in the Eastern Nágá Hills."

390d. *TURDINUS STRIATUS*, Walden.

I have compared a specimen from Sadiya of the bird hitherto considered as *T. brevicaudatus* with the type in the Calcutta Museum, obtained by Col. Tickell in Tenasserim, and find that they are, after all, distinct. The Tenasserim form is very strong rufous on the breast, belly and under tail-coverts, the spots on the secondaries are small and triangular, whereas in that from Sadiya they are large and tip the feather. The throat is also grayer in this last. In the "Ibis" for 1876, p. 354, Lord Tweeddale remarks on the highly colored drawing by Tickell of *T. brevicaudatus*, and Mr. Gould has very probably figured an Assam bird, which should stand properly under the title of *T. striatus*, Walden, described in Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., (4), vii., p. 241, and which Jerdon had very probably compared with true *brevicaudatus* from the Burmah side and considered distinct. This bird is the one I refer to under the title of *T. Williamsoni* in J. A. S. B., Pt. II., 1877, p. 44. I have four specimens from Sadiya (Gáro Hills and Munipur), in all of which the spots on the secondaries are rufous, while in a specimen from the Mulé-it range, Tenasserim, obtained by Mr. Limborg, they are white, thus agreeing with Col. Tickell's drawing of true *brevicaudatus* from the same locality. This specimen is again not so rufous as the type in the Indian Museum, but this is a very variable character in this group, (as may be seen in *Phoe. squamata*, of which specimens white beneath are often met with,) and probably depends on age. After all *striatus* is only a variety of *brevicaudatus*.

399b. *PELLORNEUM MANDELLII*, W. Blanford, [J. A. S. B., vol. XLI, Pt. II, p. 165, pl. VII., (1872).]

Var. *pectoralis*.

I described this variety of the Darjiling form in the J. A. S. B. vol. XLVI, Pt. II, 1877, pp. 41-42, as it differs a good deal in its markings

from *P. Mandellii* described by W. Blanford from Darjiling, and is the form which extends to the Gáro, Khási and North Cachár Hills, *P. ruficeps* of my First List, [J. A. S. B., Vol. XXXIX, p. 103, (1870).]

Jerdon, when noticing a new species from the Khási Hills, in Vol. II., Birds of India, had *Pel. palustre* in mind.

*401. POMATORHINUS FERRUGINOSUS, Blyth.

405c. POMATORHINUS STENORHYNCHUS, G.-A.

The original description appeared in this Journal, Pt. II., Vol. XLVI. p. 43, (1877), and I have only to add that its nearest ally is *P. ochraceiceps*, Walden, from Burmah; but the above species is larger and has the lower parts pale ferruginous, whilst in *ochraceiceps* they are of the purest white, and it is not so rufous on the head and nape. The legs of *stenorhynchus* are horny grey; in the figure of *ochraceiceps* lately published in the Ibis for 1877, Pl. XIII, the legs appear to be much too blue; should this coloring however be correct, it will mark another point of difference.

Mr. Ogle shot this species on Manbúm Tila, at an elevation of 8,000 feet, not far from Sadiya.

407a. GARRULAX NUCHALIS, Godwin-Austen. Plate X.

The second specimen of this bird was obtained again by Mr. Ogle, on the Kamlangpáni, at 500 ft. I described the first example, obtained also by Mr. Ogle, in the Annals and Magazine of Natural History for November 1876, and I here repeat the original description and remarks upon it. It is figured on the accompanying plate.

"Above, top of head to nape dark slaty grey, succeeded by a broad rich ferruginous collar an inch in breadth, which fades into the olive-green of the back. Wings and tail of a rather darker tint of olive, the latter tipped black; the first four primaries are tipped hoary-grey; the shoulder of wing has a rusty tinge. A narrow frontal band; the lores, with a narrow line over and below the eye, black; this is continued in a streak of dark rusty brown over the ear-coverts; a few white feathers border the black frontal band above. Chin black, extending a short way down the middle of throat; breast pale ashy, with a slight vinous tinge. Cheeks and ear-coverts pure white. Flanks and under tail-coverts dull olive-green. Bill black. Irides purple-lake. Legs fleshy-grey.

"Length 10 inches, wing 4·25, tail 4·6, tarsus 1·7, bill at front 0·9.

"This beautiful species was among a batch of birds lately received from and collected by Mr. M. T. Ogle, of the Topographical Survey, in the Lhota-Nágá hills. It is the representative there of *G. chinensis*, but differs in possessing the broad ferruginous nape, and the neutral grey of the head is of a darker hue. In other respects it is identical, save in some

minor points, such as :—the black of the throat does not extend so far down on to the upper breast ; the lower breast is paler than in *chinensis*, and has a vinous tinge ; the under tail-coverts are pure olivaceous with no ochraceous tint ; and, lastly, the white of the cheek and ear-coverts extends in this new form further down the side of the neck.”

*427*b*. *ACTINURA DAFLAENSIS*, Godwin-Austen. [Pl. IV, J. A. S. B., 1876.]

497*d*. *ACTINURA OGLEI*, Godwin-Austen. Plate XI.

This beautiful new form, discovered by Mr. M. T. Ogle, was described in J. A. S. B., Vol. XLVI, Pt. II, 1877, p. 42, from Maubúm Tila on the Tengapáni River, near Sadiya. It is now figured.

*430. *SIBIA PICAOIDES*, Hodgson.

*432. *MALACOCERCUS TERRICOLOR*, Hodgson.

*498. *RUTICILLA HODGSONI*, Moore.

*534. *PRINIA SOCIALIS*, Sykes, small variety.

*535. *PRINIA STEWARTI*, Blyth.

562*a*. *PHYLLOSCOPUS FULIGINIVENTER*, Hodgson, sp.

Horornis fuliginiventer, Jerdon. [Birds of India, Vol. II, p. 162, No. 525.]

A dull but well marked ring round the eyes, an indistinct supercilium of same colour as the breast. All above very dusky bistre-brown with an olive tinge. Beneath dingy oil-green, paler on chin ; under tail-coverts rather lengthened. Irides dull brown, legs ochraceous green. Obtained at Sadiya.

L. 4·25, W. 2·15, T. 2·0, t. 0·87, Bf. 0·34.

564. *REGULOIDES TROCHILOIDES*, Sundeval.

♂ from Noa Dihing, March 6th. Compared with specimens in British Museum.

Lord Tweeddale writes—“ Has your specimen got white margins to the outer tail feathers ? If it has so, it will be true *P. viridipennis*, and which is probably nothing but *P. presbytes* of S. Müller. Seebohm thinks that *P. trochiloides*, *viridipennis*, and *presbytes* are one and the same.”*

576. *ABRORNIS AFFINIS*, Hodgson.

This bird I have only received from the Nága Hills ; it has a bright yellow ring round the eye.

* Compare Stray Feathers, V, 1877, pp. 330, 504.—Ed.

572. *ABRORNIS FLAVIGULARIS*, n sp.

Description : Above ash grey, purer grey on rump, rather darker on the head. Wings pale umber-brown. Tail ash-brown, the two outer feathers white on the inner web, the next with a narrow edging of white. Lores white, ear-coverts white and grey. Chin pure yellow fading on throat; breast, nape, flank and thighs greyish white, whitish on the breast; a very faint yellow tinge on the abdomen; under tail-coverts white. A small patch of yellow on inner shoulder of the wing,

Bill dark above, buff below.

W. 1.84, T. 1.8, t. 0.67, Bf. 0.3.

Hab.—Sadiya. (Mr. Ogle.)

Having failed to identify this bird with any species I have examined, I have now described it more fully; it is the specimen I noted as probably new under the above title in the J. A. S. B., Vol. XLVI, Pt. II, p. 44, (1877).

It is nearest to *A. xanthoschistus*, having the same coloured head and form of bill, but its entire ashy upper surface distinguishes it well from all the species I am acquainted with.

*586. *HENICURUS SCHISTACEUS*, Hodgson.*587. *HENICURUS SCOULERI*, Vigors.*588. *HENICURUS SINENSIS*, Gould.*590a. *MOTACILLA HODGSONI*, G. K. Gray.*592. *CALOBATES MELANOPE*, Pallas.594. *BUDYTES CITREOLA*, Pallas.

♀. Pengapáni, W. Sadiya. April 24th.

The black band on the nape is hardly developed at all.

594a. *BUDYTES CITREOLOIDES*, Hodgson.

♀. Brahmaputra. April 5th.

The white of the wing has a slight wash of yellow on it.

*612. *CUTIA NIPALENSIS*, Hodgson.*621. *PROPARUS CHRYSÆUS*, Hodgson.625a. *STAPHIDEA PLUMBEICEPS*, Godwin-Austen.

Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., Dec. 1877.

Original Description : "Head (sub-crested) ash-grey, purer behind; feathers narrowly edged paler. Back pale olive-brown, a few feathers

pale-shafted. Wings umber-brown. Tail darker, the four outer feathers tipped with white, increasing outwards diagonally. Lores pale grey. The ear-coverts only to just beneath the eye chestnut, the feathers white-shafted. Chin, throat, and all the lower parts white. Flanks pale sepia-grey; under tail-coverts the same, tipped white.

“Irides reddish brown. Legs umber.

“Length 4·6 inches, wing 2·3, tail 9·05, tarsus 0·7, bill at front 0·3.—Obtained near Sadiya and Brahmakhúnd.”

A near ally is *Staphidea castaneiceps*, Moore, very common in the Khási and Nágá Hills, while another very distinct species is *Staphidea torqueola*, Swin.; but in this last the chestnut commences at the base of the lower mandible, passes under the eye and round the nape in a broad band of chestnut-brown, and the last three tertiaries are margined white on the inner web. This is absent in the Assam species.

In my note-book I find that I obtained one example in the Dikrang valley, Dafla hills, which I shot at camp No. 9; but this was subsequently lost somehow or other, and therefore I did not insert it in the List of Birds from the Dafla Hills, published in the Society's Journal.

Can this be *Ixulus striatus*, Blyth? Blanford in J. A. S. B., 1872, p. 166, says the Darjiling bird is the same as the Tenasserim type in the Calcutta Museum, but mentions that it has a rufous supercilium, which none of my specimens possess.

[Since writing the above, I have received from Mr. W. Blanford, in a letter from Calcutta in reply to some questions I wrote to him regarding this species, *Ix. striatus*, some remarks which I now quote. “I have two specimens of the Sikkim bird; I have re-compared them with the type from Tenasserim, and I cannot understand how I can have identified the two. The Tenasserim bird is, as Blyth describes it, greyish brown (ashy brown according to Tickell), the cap may have been a trifle darker, but very little, not so distinct I should say as in the Sikkim bird, and the white shafts are far more conspicuous in the Tenasserim type. Above all, the bill is much larger in the latter; the difference is so marked that I think I must have compared a Sikkim specimen differing from those I have now. The cheek patch is distinct but faint. In the specimen from Sikkim, (*Ix. rufigenis*, Hume) which I now have, the rufous supercilium is only indicated posteriorly.” This last title was given to the Sikkim bird by Mr. A. O. Hume in Stray Feathers, Vol. V, p. 108. Mr. Blanford has now followed up his letter by sending me two specimens from Mr. Mandelli's collection of this Darjiling form, and on comparison I find that it is quite distinct from *plumbeiceps*. This last has the head of a decided ash-grey colour, and the feathers are more lengthened behind, so as to give a sub-crested appearance. Bill shorter and deeper. Legs stouter, altogether a larger bird. In one

specimen from Darjiling, there is an extension shewn of the rufous of the ear-coverts round the nape, of which there is not a trace in the Sadiya examples. These are the dimensions of *rufigenis*. W. 2.45, T. 0.6, Bf. 0.47.

The wings run about equal. This genus presents us with an interesting example of modification of plumage in areas that are in a great measure separated now physically. We appear to have 5 forms:—

1. *Staphidea castaneiceps*, Moore, (1854). Gáro, Khási and Nága Hills.
2. „ *striatus*, Blyth, (1859). Tenasserim.
3. „ *rufigenis*, Hume. Sikkim Hills.
4. „ *plumbeiceps*, Godwin-Austen. Sadiya, Eastern Assam.
5. „ *torqueola*, Swinhoe. W. China.]

669. GARRULUS BISPECULARIS, Vigors.

This Himalayan Jay was obtained by Mr. Chennell at Shillong, and is in his collection.

*838. SYPHEOTIDES BENGALENSIS, Gmelin.

873. RHYNCHÆA BENGALENSIS, Linnæus.

North Khási Hills. Mr. Chennell.

In the neighbourhood of Calcutta these birds breed as early as March and April; two chicks were brought to me about the middle of the former month.

879. IBIDORHYNCHUS STRUTHERSII, Vigors.

♂. Noa Dihing.

W. 9.25, T. 5.5, t. 1.7, Bf. 3.02.

907a. PODICA PERSONATA, G. R. Gray.

This bird, hitherto only recorded, on the Indian side, from Cachár, was found by Mr. Ogle on the Noa Dihing river near Sadiya; the specimen is a male, and has been compared with those in the Indian Museum from Tenasserim.

W. 9.5, T. 5.4, t. 2.0, Bf. 2.15, bill to nares 1.05.

908. PORZANA AKOOL, Sykes.

In Mr. Chennell's collection from North Khási Hills.

Length about 9.25, W. 4.4, T. 2.3, t. 1.8, Bf. 1.0.

Bill dusky green, yellow below, irides red brown, legs and feet dusky lake.

910. PORZANA PYGMÆA, Naumaun.

Near base of the Hills. N. Khási. Obtained by Mr. Chennell.

935a. GORSACHIUS MELANOLOPHUS, Raffles.

Dipur Bhíl. Eastern Assam, March, (Chennell).

The discovery of this interesting bird in this part of India is noteworthy, as I do not believe it has hitherto been obtained any where in India, certainly never recorded. Up to the present it has been only known as a native of Japan, Sumatra, Philippines, Arrakan (Ramri Island), Ceylon and the Nicobars (Hume). The specimen, a male, agrees well with Mr. A. O. Hume's excellent description from the last-named locality in "Stray Feathers, Vol. II, p. 313." Mr. Chennell's dimensions in the flesh are "wing 10·7, tail 5, tarsus 3·0, bill at front 1·9. Bill dark horny;" these I have checked and find correct, the wing I make exactly 11·0. The tarsus of the Nicobar bird appears to be very much shorter than in Schlegel's description and in this specimen from Assam.

950. *SARCIDIORNIS MELANONOTUS*, Pennant.

There is a head of this species in Mr. Chennell's collection from Upper Assam.

*981. *LARUS RIDIBUNDUS*, Linn.

*987. *STERNA MELANOASTRA*, Temminck.

Notes on Species recorded in former Lists.

79. *ATHENE CUCULOIDES*.

Mr. Chennell writes me an interesting account connected with the habits of this bird "One evening last January while in search of *Polyplectron*, several of which were calling about my camp at Gorhanga, I came upon two birds struggling desperately on the ground. I shot both, one "turned out to be an owl, *Athene cuculoides* ♀ and the other a thrush "*Myiophonus temminckii* ♂. The little owl had so furiously attacked the "thrush that even in death its strong talons were firmly fixed in the "victim's back."

157. *PICUS MACUL.*

In the colour of the ear-coverts there is, I find, very great variance from pure white to pale earthy brown; they are white in a female from Sadiya.

311. *MUSCICAPULA AESTIGMA*.

The young bird is dull umber-brown above, the feathers tipped pale rufous and edged darkly, giving it a very speckly appearance. Upper tail coverts rufous umber. Secondary coverts forming a narrow wing bar, 3 last secondaries edged in the same way. Beneath white, some of the feathers tipped dark brown. Wings and tail ashy umber-brown.

From Shillong Peak. July, (*ex coll.* Chennell.)

316. *NILTAVA GRANDIS*.

I have a specimen of this species in its young plumage which is worth description.

Above, brown with a rufous shade, the feathers of the head shafted ferruginous, those of the wing coverts, lower back and rump broadly tipped with the same colour and edged black. Tail dark chestnut brown, wings umber-brown. Beneath, breast ferruginous brown with some dusky edgings, giving a slightly barred appearance, paling to whitish on abdomen.

330. *PNOEPTYGA PUSILLA*, var.

A specimen in Mr. Chennell's collection is in a very interesting stage of plumage. It is uniform brown, the feathers not so scale-like as usual, only a very few of the feathers on the lower back having terminal spots to them; in size and form of bill it is the same as the type. I was at first inclined to consider it distinct, but it is better to wait until we see more similar specimens before naming it, for it appears immature. The wings are rusty umber-brown, chin pale, breast and belly ashy umber with no bars or markings.

W. 1.8, T. very short, t. 0.7, Bf. 9.43.

From the N. Khási Hills.

346. *PITTA CUCULLATA*, Hartlaub.

I have seen a specimen in Mr. Chennell's collection which he obtained in the N. Khási Hills, and he only saw one other. I have already alluded to the apparent rarity of the species in these Hills.

386a. *PYCTORHIS ALTIROSTRIS*, Jerdon.

= *griseigularis*, Hume.

I observe that Mr. Hume is still of opinion that his Bhútán Duár bird is distinct from *altirostris*, and in *Stray Feathers*, Vol. V, No. 2, p. 116, he has named it *griseigularis* (relying on Dr. Jerdon's description being correct). Had Mr. Hume looked up the "Fifth List of Birds from the N. E. Frontier," J. A. S. B., Vol. XLV, Pt. II, p. 197, he would have seen that after the intimation of the re-discovery of the species (*Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, Jany. 1876) the type of *altirostris* turned up in the British Museum, and that my specimens had been compared with it, leaving no doubt in my mind that they are identical, both in plumage and bill. Mr. Hume's specimens and my own, moreover, come from the same line of country, the great plain north of the Brahmaputra. Dr. Jerdon's description is short, but applies very fairly in every way, save in respect to the bill, which is deeper than in *Sinensis*. Jerdon says "making an approach to *Paradoxornis*," by this he may have intended to convey only a very slight approach. The following appear to be the principal differences in the description of the plumage.

Above "slightly brownish ferruginous," Hume, Vol. V, or "rather dark ferruginous brown," Hume, Vol. IV. = "pale reddish brown," Jerdon.

Beneath "dull rusty," Hume, Vol. V, or "Brownish buff deeper coloured &c.," Hume, Vol. IV, = "pale fulvescent," Jerdon.

Under wing-coverts "pale yellowish fawn," Hume, Vol. V, = "pale ferruginous," Jerdon.

When such distinctions as these are made the basis on which to found new species, it is I think advisable to wait, and if possible compare with the type. But in *altirostris* we have one very marked character which Dr. Jerdon did not overlook, *viz.*, "forehead and streak over the eye hoary grey." No two men agree in describing various shades of brown, olive-green &c., an important element being the kind of light the skins are placed in, and individual sensitiveness to colour. It is satisfactory to know that the type of *altirostris* has been found, otherwise we should have been left in a cloud of doubt regarding even its very existence, for in *Stray Feathers*, Vol. III, p. 116, an idea is thrown out that Dr. Jerdon had got hold of a variety of *Pyctorhis sinensis* when he was at Thyet-Myo. Even had the type of *altirostris* been lost, I hold it would have been better to consider it as re-discovered in Assam, and then have waited for it to turn up again on the Irrawady (where I am sure it will be found*) before giving the Assam bird a new title.

427c. *ACTINURA EGERTONI*, Gould. Var. *Khasiana*, Godwin-Austen.

This is referred to in my list of Daffa Hill Birds and is the species noted as near *Egertoni* in my First List.

437a. *MALACOCERCUS (LAYARDIA) ROBIGINOSUS*, Godwin-Austen, described in J. A. S. B., 1874, p. 164, is the *Pyctorhis longirostris*, Hodgson, of Moore's Catalogue of Birds in the Indian Museum. I have compared my specimens with the type and only observe that those from Eastern Assam are larger. I was misled into describing it under a new name by a specimen which is only a slight variety of *Pyc. sinensis*, labelled wrongly *P. longirostris*, in the British Museum. At the time I described *M. robiginosus* the Indian Museum birds were still packed away and not to be got at, and I trusted to the correctness of Mr. Gray's identification of the British Museum bird. I was further misled by *longirostris* being placed in the genus *Pyctorhis*, with which it has no affinity, but is a true *Malacocercus*.

* It has been re-found by Mr. Oates, see *Stray Feathers*, V, p. 249.—Ed.

531a. ORTHOTOMUS ATRIGULARIS, Temminck.

= *flavi-viridis*, Moore. Dunsiri Valley, Assam.

On comparing this with a specimen from Tenasserim collected by Mr. O. Limborg, I notice that in the former the chestnut on the head does not extend so far back on the nape as in the latter, and in a specimen from the Gáro Hills it is confined to the frontal part of the head only. Assam birds have the darkish sub-terminal tip to the tail feathers as mentioned by Mr. Moore in his description. The abdominal portion is not so pure a white in the Assam bird.

619a. MINLA RUFIGULARIS, Mandelli.

This is *Alcippe collaris*, Walden.

I have compared a specimen sent home lately by Mr. Hume and find it identical with the Assam form. Mandelli's title has priority.

619b. MINLA MANDELLII, Godwin-Austen.

Through the kindness of Mr. P. L. Slater I have been able to compare Mr. Hume's *Proparus dubius* from South Burma with this bird; it is clearly distinct, one of those interesting representative races we so often find at the extreme limit of range. *M. dubius* is much paler beneath and has not got the white markings on the nape. It would be conferring a great service to ornithology if Mr. Hume would always send home similar doubtful species, which can only be satisfactorily determined by comparison with types in public and private collections.



W. Hart lith

Hanhart imp

GARRULAX NUCHALIS



J. Smit lith

Hanhart imp

ACTINURA OGLEI.